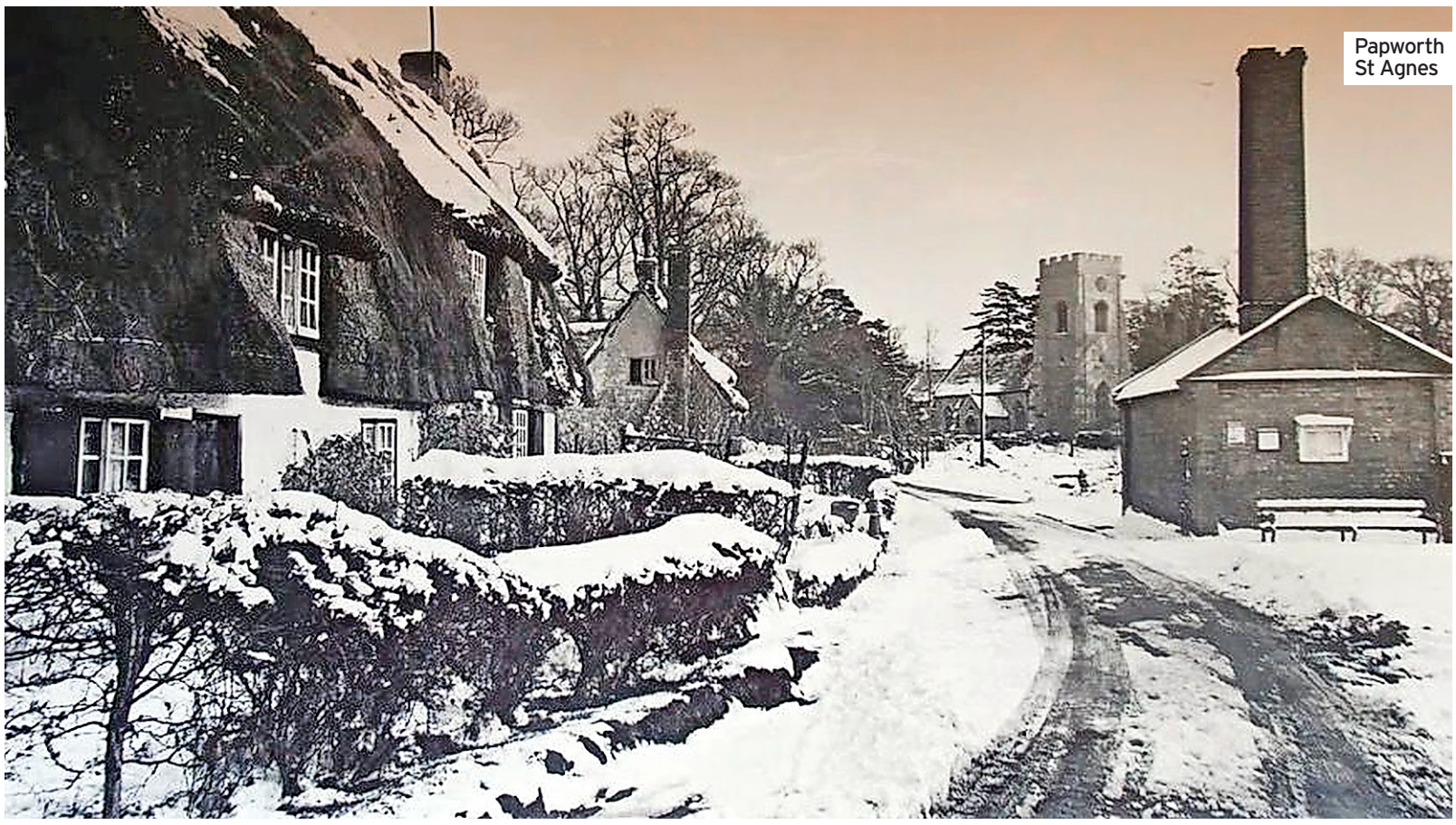
NOSTALGIA

New drama, trams in the streets, and evil encounters on the water

***MIKE PETTY** AND **JAMES MILNER** LOOK THROUGH THE **CAMBRIDGE NEWS** ARCHIVES AT SOME OF THE STORIES FROM THIS DAY IN THE PAST*


Papworth St Agnes

Village with no shops, pubs or schools – 1976

Planners agreed a new policy for Papworth St Agnes – one of the smallest villages in Cambridgeshire.

It has only one road in and out, no shop, no pub, no bus service, no vicar of its own, no school, no children of school age – and very little crime.

Most of it is owned by Mr Henry St John Sperling who, as lord of the manor, patron of the church, chairman of the parish meeting, and local councillor, has been trying to prevent the village becoming run down while preserving its unspoilt character.

The new policy aims to inject new life, restoring and improving the church, manor house, old bakehouse and two thatched cottages; but the design and materials of new houses must harmonise with existing buildings.

Two cinemas forced to close – 1956

Two of Cambridge's long-established cinemas, the Playhouse and the Tivoli, will close after the last performance on Saturday.

Associated British Cinemas say the heavy burden of entertainments tax has made them uneconomic.

The majority of the 35 staff will be absorbed by the other cinemas in the group, while others will join the private cinemas run by Mr George Webb.

A new stage for drama in town – 1926

When the new Festival Theatre in Newmarket Road, Cambridge, opens on Monday, a fresh phase in the history of drama in England will have commenced.

Without destroying the principle of the Old Theatre Royal, with its memories of the old regency days, the promoters of this new venture have so adapted the building that it is the most modern and up to date in England.

The new stage gradually merges into the stalls by a series of shallow steps. Behind is a revolving middle stage backed by a raised and sliding backstage with the cylindrical cyclorama as its background.

The lighting will be a special feature and the theatre will be warmed by a central heating system.

The Playhouse in 1913

Tivoli cinema circa 1925